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ABSTRACT

This annotated bibliography attempts to make the collection of the Tyler Free Library in Foster, Rhode Island, more accessible to anyone interested in the history of the town. The library has long been an unofficial repository of historical information and town documents for the community of Foster, Rhode Island. The library also houses the files of the Foster Preservation Society, which contain much historical and genealogical information about Foster and the surrounding area. The file is indexed and is available during library hours. The bibliography is divided into the following sections: (1) "Foster History and Folklore"; (2) "Comprehensive Planning"; (3) "Town Charter"; (4) "Schools/Education"; (5) "Zoning/Planning"; (6) "Tax Books"; and (7) "Maps." (EH)

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1996

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Foster Town History and Documents Located at the Tyler Free Library
Foster, Rhode Island
An Annotated Bibliography
1996

Tyler Free Library has long been an unofficial repository of historical information and town documents for the community of Foster, Rhode Island. This bibliography is an attempt to make this collection more accessible to anyone interested in the history of the town.

The library is also home to the Foster Preservation Society files which contain much historical and genealogical information about Foster and the surrounding area. This file is indexed. Both file and index are available for use during library hours.

Foster History and Folklore

Matthews, Margery I., Virginia I. Benson, and Arthur E. Wilson. Churches of Foster: A History of religious life in rural Rhode Island. Foster, RI: North Foster Baptist Church, c1978.

Recites, in chronological order, the history of each church and its congregation in Foster, Rhode Island. These narratives are set within the historical context of the religious movements, society, and economics of the time each congregation existed. Contains a bibliography and maps.

Early historical accounts of Foster, Rhode Island, with an index compiled by Kenneth W. Faig, Jr. Glenview, IL: The Moshassuck Press, 1993.

Contains "Sketches of Foster" written by Charles C. Beaman and published serially in the Providence Journal in 1858-1859; as well as "Historical Reminiscences of Foster" written by Casey B. Tyler and published serially by the Pawtuxet Valley Gleaner ca.1884. The index contains biographical information about Charles C. Beaman and Casey B. Tyler as well as historical information concerning the accounts themselves.

Matthews, Margery I. Peleg's last word: The Story of the Foster woolen manufactory. Foster, RI: Foster Preservation Society, 1987.

Tells the story of Peleg Walker, who committed suicide in the Ramtail mill in 1822. How people came to believe that the mill was haunted by Peleg Walker, a history of the mill itself, and the known facts of Peleg Walker's life are related. Contains photographs, bibliography, and appendix listing inventories of the Ramtail mill taken in 1831, 1843, and 1844.

Matthews, Margery I. Foster and the patriot's dream: A Bicentennial reflection. Foster, RI: Foster Preservation Society, 1976.

Depicts daily life in Foster during the latter part of the 18th century using a fictional "but representative" character named Amos as narrator. Most of the information is factual and documented by the sources listed in the bibliography. Also contains addenda listing local industries, produce, population, town officers, taverns, the civil and military list, and justices of the peace from that time.

Matthews, Margery I., ed. So I've been told: Stories of Foster. Foster, RI: Foster Preservation Society, 1985.

A collection of short historical anecdotes from various sources including newspapers, town records, scrapbooks, and "conversations with Foster people". Topics include: the cattle pound, town libraries, Jerimoth Hill, fire companies, school days, 1938 hurricane, small pox, ghosts, witches and haunted places, place names, the stone house, and the gold-headed cane.

Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission. Foster, Rhode Island. Statewide Historical Preservation Report P-F-1, June 1982.

This is a preservation report containing planning recommendations for the town of Foster. The physical and social setting as well as the history of Foster are detailed. Historical architecture is emphasized. Contains maps, photographs, bibliography, and appendices. This is the most complete and best documented history of Foster currently in existence.

The Vampire Cemetery: Foster, Rhode Island. n.d.

Slides with an accompanying script telling the story of Nancy Young. She became mysteriously ill and died in 1827. Five other children from the same family later died in the same manner. It was thought that Nancy's body was taken over by a vampire, so it was exhumed on the night of a full moon, a stake was driven through her heart, and her body was burned.

Bennett, Leslie J. "The Providence and Danielson Railway." TMs. [photocopy] 1986.

This history of the Providence and Danielson trolley discusses its impact upon the town of Foster and examines the trolley's role in changing settlement patterns at the beginning of the 20th century. Bibliography (Copies of many articles cited in the bibliography are stored with the text.).

Comprehensive Planning

Foster Planning Board. "Land use analysis: Foster, Rhode Island." December 1959.

The purpose of this study is to review and analyze the existing land use in Foster and to outline a preliminary plan for the town's future growth. It provides a historical background, land use inventory, an existing land use analysis, and a preliminary land use development plan. Includes maps, graphs, illustrations, and population tables.

Rhode Island Development Council. Planning Division. Community Assistance Program. "Town of Foster Rhode Island: People and Economy. Comprehensive Plan Phase I." Project R.I.P.-13. October 1963.

This is an analysis of Foster's economy and its people, both internally and as part of the Providence metropolitan area. Its purpose is to provide a foundation for the creation of "a sound comprehensive planning program". Contains tables, illustrations, maps, and graphs.

Rhode Island Development Council. Planning Division. Community Assistance Program. "Town of Foster, Rhode Island: Comprehensive Plan Phase II." Project R.I.P.-15. August 1964.

The Comprehensive Plan for Foster is presented in four sections: problems, policies, plans, and action. The first section reviews past studies and identifies problems which face the town in the future. The Policies section lists policy statements to serve as guides to implement the plan. The last two sections contain plans for land use, thoroughfares, and community facilities. It

is meant to project the needs of the town to the year 1980. This plan was never adopted by the town.

Everett, Michael and Michael Holleran. Everett Associates. "Foster, Rhode Island: Comprehensive Plan." Adopted by the Planning Board, Town of Foster on July 21, 1982.

This plan provides a description and history of Foster, states general goals of the town, and inventories the town in terms of its zoning, land use, limitations to development, agricultural soils and use, watershed areas, housing starts, historic preservation, and traffic volume. It closes with recommendations regarding "areas of concern" for the town. An appendix titled "State Guide Plan Policies Relevant to Foster Planning" is attached. Contains illustrations, charts, graphs, and maps.

The Newport Collaborative, Inc. "1991 Foster Comprehensive Plan." September 1991.

This is the second draft of the Foster Comprehensive Plan written in 1991. It is intended for review and discussion at public workshops during October - December 1991. This plan is meant as a primary guide to future growth and development of the town. The plan addresses the following areas: growth, economic development, land use, housing, community facilities, natural resources, historic and scenic resources, circulation, open space and recreation, and plan implementation. Contains illustrations, maps, and figures.

"Amendments to Draft Comprehensive Plan 2/5/92."

This is a folder containing pages where amendments have occurred to the plan listed immediately above.

Town of Foster. "1991 Foster Comprehensive Plan: Summary."

This is a five page summary of the 1991 comprehensive plan as amended in February 1992, which was distributed to Foster residents prior to a public hearing on the plan on March 19, 1992.

The Newport Collaborative, Inc. "1991 Foster Comprehensive Plan." December 1991. Amended and adopted by the Town of Foster, April 1992.

This is the complete plan as amended (see the three previous citations) and adopted in 1992. It is the current comprehensive plan for the town, intended for use to the year 2010.

Town Charter

Town of Foster. Charter Commission. "Proposed Constitutional Charter." 1966.

This proposed charter contains 14 articles describing the powers of the town, the powers and duties of town officials, the procedures for nominations and elections, and general provisions.

Town of Foster. Charter Commission. "1976 Constitutional Charter." November 1976.

Following a preamble and incorporation paragraph, the charter lists 15 articles titled: Powers of the Town, Town Council, Moderator, Town Clerk, School Committee, Appointive Officers and Town Sergeant, Public Works Department, Police Department, Planning and Zoning,

Financial Procedures, Town Treasurer, Board of Tax Review, Nominations and Elections, General Provisions, and Transitional Provisions.

Town of Foster. Charter Review Committee. "Adopted Constitutional Charter 1976: Final Review Draft for Town Council." 1993.

This is a copy of the 1976 charter containing extensive additions and deletions (signified by highlighting and line-outs) proposed in 1993. These proposals were not adopted, and the 1976 charter currently stands as written.

Schools/Education

Moosup Valley School Reunion Scrapbook. 1987.

Contains personal anecdotes about school days, photographs taken at the reunion, and a list of pupils and teachers who attended the reunion on October 3, 1987. The Moosup Valley School is a one room schoolhouse built in 1811 and was in use as a school until 1952. It currently serves as the children's room of the Tyler Free Library in Foster.

Rhode Island Department of Education. "Foster, Glocester, Foster-Glocester School Building Needs Survey." April 1970.

This report provides a description of each town and the regional district, the projected size of school enrollments, analyzes the usefulness of existing school buildings, and makes recommendations for future building needs. Contains cost projection tables for each town.

Foster School Department. "Long Range Task Force Report." March 1986.

Presents a review of the present educational program, analyzes school facilities in light of changing educational needs; discusses the impact of residential construction upon school enrollment, population growth, and tax base growth; and identifies options to maintain the quality of education in Foster.

New England Association of Schools and Colleges. Commission on Public Schools. "Report of the Visiting Committee: Ponaganset Regional High School, Foster/Glocester School District, Rhode Island." March 27-30, 1988.

This is an evaluation of the administration, faculty, curriculum, facilities, and community support of the Ponaganset High School.

Computer Education Task Force. n.d.

This photocopy of a report produced in the early 1980's discusses the best method of implementing computer education into the Foster/Glocester school curriculum.

Zoning/Planning

Foster Planning Board. "Town of Foster Proposed Zoning Ordinance." Final draft for public hearing. June 1994.

Proposed zoning districts and regulations are set forth in accordance with the Foster Comprehensive Plan approved on April 23, 1992.

Foster Center Road Advisory Committee. "Report on the Route 94 Upgrade Project." March 3, 1992.

Contains recommendations of the committee regarding the reconstruction of state route 94 through Foster in light of local concerns about safety and maintaining the historic and rural character of the town.

Tax Books

The Foster tax books for the following years are available at the library: 1888, 1920-21, 1923-25, 1928-30, 1940-41, 1943-1952, 1960-61, 1963-66, 1990-1995.

Maps

The following four maps were reprinted by the Foster Preservation Society in 1974.

"Plan of the Town of Foster." 1799.

"By conjecture from the best information, June 20, 1799. First draft made by Isaac Davenport. Corrected with additions made to it by Theodore Foster when he went to that town June 19, 1799." Redrawn by Sandra J. Campbell. Foster Preservation Society, 1974.

"Foster, Scituate, and Glocester." 1862.

A portion of the Henry F. Walling Map, Providence, 1862.

"Foster." 1870.

D.G. Beers and Company Map. Philadelphia. 1870.

"Town of Foster." 1895.

Everts and Richards Map. Philadelphia. 1895.

Six geological survey maps (surficial geology, bedrock geology, and topographic) cover portions of the town of Foster.

United States. Department of the Interior. "Geologic Quadrangle Maps of the United States. Surficial Geologic Map of the Oneco Quadrangle Connecticut-Rhode Island." Map GQ-917. Washington, D.C.: United States Geological Survey, 1971.

United States. Department of the Interior. "Geologic Quadrangle Maps of the United States. Bedrock Geologic Map of the Oneco Quadrangle Connecticut-Rhode Island." Map GQ-930. Washington, D.C.: United States Geological Survey, 1971.

United States. Department of the Interior. "Geologic Quadrangle Maps of the United States. Topographic Map of the Oneco Quadrangle Connecticut-Rhode Island." 7.5 Minute Series. Washington, D.C.: United States Geological Survey, 1953. Photorevised 1970.

United States. Department of the Interior. "Geologic Quadrangle Maps of the United States. Topographic Map of the Clayville Quadrangle." 7.5 Minute Series. Washington, D.C.: United States Geological Survey, 1955. Photorevised 1970.

United States. Department of the Interior. "Geologic Quadrangle Maps of the United States. Topographic Map of the Coventry Center Quadrangle." 7.5 Minute Series. Washington, D.C.: United States Geological Survey, 1955. Photorevised 1970. Photoinspected 1975.

United States. Department of the Interior. "Geologic Quadrangle Maps of the United States. Topographic Map of the East Killingly Quadrangle." 7.5 Minute Series. Washington, D.C.: United States Geological Survey, 1955. Photorevised 1970 and 1974.